

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

- 1-15. (cancelled)
16. (new) A process to improve coagulation of milk comprising adding to the milk, before coagulation treatment, at least one strain of lactic bacteria chosen from the group consisting of *L. plantarum* LMG-P-21385, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG-P-21387, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG-P-21388 and *L. plantarum* LMG-P-21389.
17. (new) Process as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that said at least one strain is added to the milk in the form of liquid culture.
18. (new) Process as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that said at least one strain is added to the milk in anhydrous form.
19. (new) Process as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that said at least one strain is added to the milk in quantities ranging from 0.1 to 1% of liquid culture with respect to the milk (volume/volume).
20. (new) Process as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that said at least one strain is added to the milk in quantities ranging from 0.3 to 0.5% of liquid culture in respect of the milk (volume/volume).
21. (new) Process as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that said at least one strain is added to the milk in quantities ranging from 10^{11} to 10^{12} CFU/100 litres of milk.
22. (new) Process as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that said at least one strain is added to the milk before pasteurization.

23. (new) Process as claimed in claim 16, further comprising the step of preparing a milk derivative from the milk after said adding step.
24. (new) Process as claimed in claim 23, wherein said milk derivative is cheese or yogurt.
25. (new) A strain of lactic bacteria chosen from the group consisting of *L. plantarum* LMG- P- 21385, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG-P-21387, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG- P-21388 and *L. plantarum* LMG-P-21389.
26. (new) The strain of lactic bacteria of claim 25, in combination with one or more different strains of lactic bacteria chosen from the group consisting of *L. plantarum* LMG- P- 21385, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG-P-21387, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG- P-21388 and *L. plantarum* LMG-P-21389.
27. (new) The combination of claim 26, said combination of strains being suitable to improve or promote milk coagulation.
28. (new) Milk containing one or more strains of lactic bacteria chosen from the group consisting of *L. plantarum* LMG- P- 21385, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG-P- 21387, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG- P-21388 and *L. plantarum* LMG-P-21389.
29. (new) Milk according to claim 28, said milk being obtained from a process comprising adding to the milk, before coagulation treatment, one or more strains of lactic bacteria chosen from the group consisting of *L. plantarum* LMG- P- 21385, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG-P-21387, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG- P-21388 and *L. plantarum* LMG-P-21389.
30. (new) A dairy product derived from milk according to claim 29.